

STATE LIBRARY OF PENNSYLVANIA



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SECOND REPORT

OF THE

FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION

OF

PENNSYLVANIA.

1903.



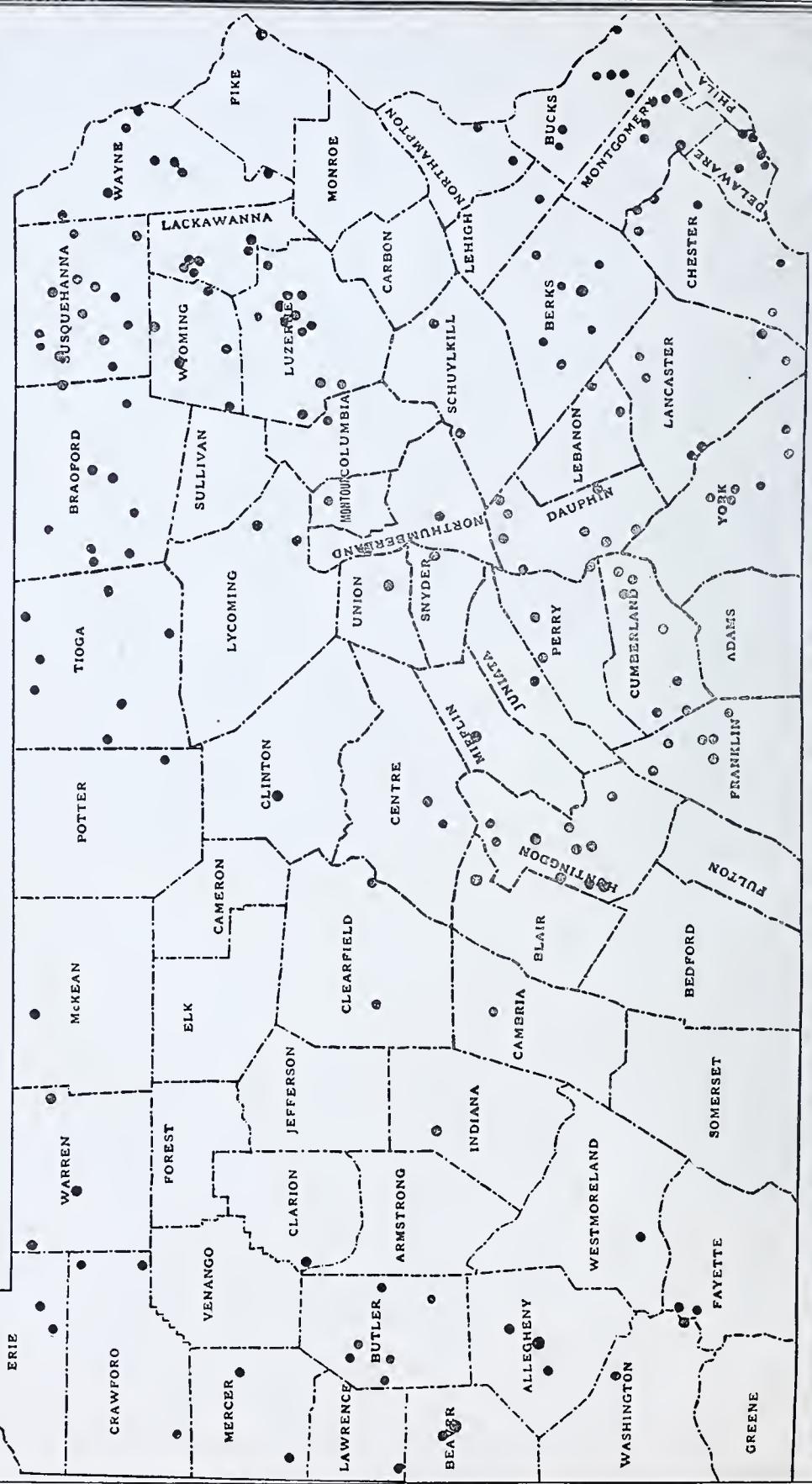
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1903

PENNSYLVANIA STATE LIBRARY
DOCUMENTS SECTION
WM. STANLEY RAY,
STATE PRINTER OF PENNSYLVANIA,
1904.

Eric Williams Library



GAYLAMOUNT
PAMPHLET DINER
Manufactured by
GAYLORD BROS., Inc.
Syracuse, N.Y.
Stockton, Calif.



MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF TRAVELING LIBRARIES IN PENNSYLVANIA.

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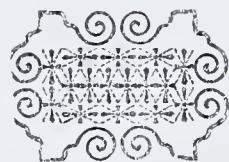
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PENNSYLVANIA FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION.

(OFFICE: STATE LIBRARY, HARRISBURG.)

MEMBERS.

EX-OFFICIO:

THOMAS LYNCH MONTGOMERY, State Librarian, Harrisburg.

(Commission expires with expiration of term as State Librarian.)

APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

JOSEPH G. ROSENGARTEN, Philadelphia.

(Commission expires January 3, 1909.)

JOHN THOMSON, Philadelphia.

(Commission expires January 3, 1909.)

HENRY BELIN, JR., Scranton.

(Commission expires January 3, 1905.)

WILLIAM N. FREW, Pittsburgh.

(Commission expires January 3, 1905.)

WILLIAM M. STEVENSON, Allegheny.

(Commission expires January 3, 1905.)

OFFICERS.

Chairman—**JOSEPH G. ROSENGARTEN**,
1704 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

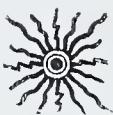
Secretary—**THOMAS LYNCH MONTGOMERY**,
State Library, Harrisburg.

Treasurer—**JOHN THOMSON**,
1217-1221 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Assistant Secretary—**THOMAS R. VERNON**,
State Library, Harrisburg.

Second Assistant Secretary—**MARY KRICHBAUM**,
State Library, Harrisburg.

N. B.—To secure prompt attention, all correspondence relating to the work of the Commission should be addressed to the Pennsylvania Free Library Commission, State Library, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

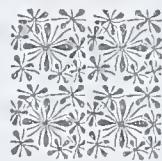
Headquarters of the Pennsylvania Free Library Commission,
State Library, Harrisburg, February 4, 1904.

To the Hon. Samuel W. Pennypacker, Governor of Pennsylvania:

Sir: I have the honor herewith to transmit the Annual Report
of the Pennsylvania Free Library Commission for the year 1903.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS L. MONTGOMERY,
Secretary.



SECOND REPORT

OF THE

PENNSYLVANIA FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION.

FEBRUARY 4, 1904.

The State Librarian entered upon his duties as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Free Library Commission on February 4, 1903, in the midst of the Legislative session when means had to be provided for the work for the next two years and with considerable amount of the labor of reorganization of the State Library upon his hands.

It was exceedingly gratifying that the Committee on Appropriations granted the full appropriation asked for (\$12,000), four times the amount granted at the previous session. This increase enabled the Commission to secure the services of an assistant secretary and to very much increase its active work.

At the first meeting of the Commission May 12, 1903, the Secretary brought up the question of sending travelling libraries to Study Clubs—and it is gratifying to report that twenty (20) Clubs have been supplied with literature on such topics as United States History and Literature, France, Russia, Shakespeare, Italian Literature, John Milton, Pedagogy, Pennsylvania, Germany, Nature Books, French and Italian Literature, American Literature, Famous Women, Children's Books, Sociology and Ethics. With the exception of one place, Pittsburgh, the towns in which these Clubs meet were without the proper facilities for study work. In the case of Pittsburgh the Study Club was told subsequently that Mr. Anderson was quite willing to supply it with all the books needed for their work from the collections of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

At the meeting in May, Mr. Thomas R. Vernon, of Media, was elected to the position of Assistant Secretary at the pleasure of the Board and entered at once upon his duties. At the same meeting a paper on "Aids in Book Selection," by Sarah W. Cattell and Alice

B. Kroeger of the Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, was offered for publication, and has since been printed and distributed throughout the State, forming Bulletin No. 1 of the Free Library Commission. There was considerable delay in having this matter passed upon by the Superintendent of Public Printing and Binding as there seemed to be no law which gave permission for the publication of the Reports of Commissions. Mr. Pomeroy was authorized by the Attorney General to take the position that the creation of a Commission might properly be presumed to carry with it the right to have printed that which would assist them in their work, at his discretion. The Bulletin has been received with favor by the Library profession and copies have been distributed to all the Libraries within the State and to the State Libraries of the other Commonwealths.

The salary of Miss Krichbaum, the assistant in charge of the work, was raised to \$800 per annum and the resolution carried with it the hearty good will of the Members of the Commission for one who had done such good service in the Travelling Library cause. At the suggestion of Mr. Belin, the Secretary corresponded with the Directors of the Anthracite Region Committee of the State Y. M. C. A., and a number of libraries have been placed in the coal regions according to their suggestions. The services of one of the district secretaries of the Association were offered for developing the travelling library work, but the Secretary of the Commission did not think that the funds at the disposal of the Commission would permit of any expense in advertising the work when the force was fully occupied in meeting the demand from new places for new libraries.

The Commission also met at Gettysburg, on Friday, October 9, after the meeting of the Keystone State Library Association. The work accomplished during the year with its various statistics will be found in the pages accompanying this Report. The number of volumes in Traveling Libraries on November 13, 1902, was 4,000. Since then there have been purchased 1,499 volumes, making a total of 5,499. In addition to these the State Library has lent for Study Clubs 335 volumes—so that the total number of volumes in use is 5,834. The number of volumes lost and paid for since the foundation of the work is 18, and of volumes rebound 148. The circulation has amounted to 29,963 volumes and no report has been received from five stations. It is very hard to get the real statistics of circulation of books—many of the records being imperfectly kept. The total number of applications received for libraries has been 154, of which 98 have come in during the past year. We have now 125 libraries in use besides 20 libraries of special subjects and 9 libraries suitable for Grange, containing literature upon topics interesting to farmers. We are receiving 25 inquiries per week from Granges

alone. We have stations in the counties of Allegheny, Beaver, Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Butler, Centre, Chester, Clarion, Clinton, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mercer, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Schuylkill, Snyder, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, Washington, Wyoming, Warren, and York.

The Secretary has received from Stations during the year the amount of \$466.83 including the balance reported last year of \$70.61, and has paid out sums aggregating \$424.94, leaving the amount in bank to-day, \$41.89. The appropriation made at the last Legislature although much larger than that for the previous year is not adequate for the needs of the work at the present time. With all the assistance that we can summon it is exceedingly difficult to keep the work up to date and had it not been for the resources of the State Library it would have been difficult to supply the Study Clubs with the literature they needed. The work now has the strong sympathy of the people in the less populated communities. The Secretary had the pleasure of addressing the annual meeting of the State Granges at Wilkes-Barre on December 9, and the interest that the members showed in the matter has been apparent in the constant stream of applications which followed. The Secretary regards this interest as one of the most favorable signs of the ultimate success of the Travelling Library system. We have made many warm friends among the Granges and when the time comes for asking for a further appropriation we can depend upon them for their hearty support.

The Secretary attended a number of library meetings during the course of the year. On June 19 the Jenkintown Free Library was inaugurated at a public meeting. The Abington Library Society had been in existence one hundred years and its development into a Free Public Library was one of the most interesting library effects of the year. The Secretary made an address upon the Library History of Pennsylvania and it was announced at the meeting that \$10,000 would be furnished by certain individuals for a new building if a plot of ground could be secured. The Jenkintown Library is helped by the Commission in carrying on this work by the lending of two traveling libraries, or 100 volumes, each six months.

On June 18, the Secretary made an address at Bloomsburg upon the occasion of the opening of the Bloomsburg Public Library. This very prosperous little institution was developed largely by the ladies of Bloomsburg who secured Miss Elizabeth Renninger to assist in the work and it has had a most successful history since that time.

The Carnegie Library at Easton was opened October 28 with ap-

propriate ceremonies, with the Secretary of the Commission as the speaker of the occasion. The new library building is beautifully situated on a bluff overlooking Bushkill Creek. It is the gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie and cost \$50,000. The institution was the outcome of the movement commenced in Easton in 1811. In 1866 the interest in it waned to such an extent that it was proposed to close the Library. It was resuscitated largely by the efforts of Mr. W. W. Cottingham who had the management transferred to the Board of Education, and the day of the opening of the Library was celebrated as the 50th anniversary of Mr. Cottingham's connection with the Public Schools of Easton.

October 15 the Secretary delivered an address upon "Pennsylvania in Library Work" before the Federation of Women's Clubs at Carlisle, and too much stress cannot be laid upon the interest of the Federation in everything that appertains to the Libraries. The fact that more than an hour was spent in answering questions after the address shows the interest of the members in everything that appertains to the work.

The West Chester Public Library has had its troubles. The organization is controlled by a Board of Trustees who receive an appropriation from the borough council. The Board of Trustees made up their minds to discharge the Librarian and political influence was then brought to bear which threatened the appropriation. In the meantime the Library has suffered by reason of the divided interest, and threats are made that the town will establish a new library.

The Pennsylvania Library Club has maintained its interesting meetings throughout the year, and on October 9 and 10, the Keystone State Association held a two-days session at Gettysburg. The Secretary of the Commission was elected President to serve for the ensuing year and the next meeting will probably be held at Cambridge Springs or Ebensburg. Two Round Table conferences were held under the auspices of the Association.

The new Carnegie Library for the State College has been begun. The ground plan is about 130x95 feet and the building will contain three stories. It will have special storage capacity for newspapers and magazines, a large safety vault, and a bindery. The contractor is under bonds to complete the structure by April 1, 1904.

The election of Dr. Jordan as Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania has brought into the ranks of librarians a most active historical worker and he has proposed a historical library section for the Keystone State Association. It is very probable that a special session will be held during the next meeting for those interested in historical matters.

Wyalusing is now possessed of a public library the gift of Mr.

Frank R. Welles of Paris. It is a fire-proof structure costing about \$5,000, which has been partially endowed by J. W. Hollenback of Wilkes-Barre.

Lansdowne, after holding stormy meetings for about a year, has at last determined to accept Mr. Carnegie's gift and the site for the building was chosen on December 28. Mr. C. C. Worthington of New York celebrated the 50th anniversary of his birth by giving a public hall, theatre and library to the town of Shawnee.

The question of the legality of appropriations made under the terms of Mr. Carnegie's gifts was brought up very positively in connection with his offer of \$1,500,000 to the Free Library of Philadelphia for Branch Libraries. The ordinance accepting the gift was held up in councils for more than six months, and its passage seemed more than dubious. It was passed finally, however, on January 11, and Philadelphia will be the happy possessor of 30 branch libraries built for the needs of the work instead of having to put up with the unsatisfactory and unsanitary halls which could be rented at moderate rates.

Mention should also be made of the very important gift by Mr. Carnegie for the extension of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh at an expenditure of \$5,000,000. The library quarters will be practically doubled and the usefulness of the institution to students very much increased. He also gave \$5,000 per year for the maintenance of a Training School for Children's Librarians.

As a fitting close to the report for the year the announcement is made that Mr. Andrew Carnegie heads the list of public givers for the year 1903 and to libraries alone he has contributed \$5,505,500.

Travelling Libraries.

BOOKS.

Number of volumes in travelling libraries November 13, 1902,	4,000
Number of volumes purchased from November 13, 1902, to date:	
Miscellaneous books for general libraries,	912
Polish books,	42
Italian books,	15
Study Club libraries,	312
Agricultural books for granges,	218
	1.499
Number of volumes worn out and replaced,	3
	5,502
Total number of volumes purchased,	
Number of volumes borrowed from the State Library for Study Clubs since August, 1903,	335
	5,837
Total number of volumes in use,	
Number of volumes lost and paid for prior to November 13, 1902,	10
Number of volumes lost and paid for since November 13, 1902,	8
	27
Number of volumes rebound prior to November 13, 1902,	121
Number of volumes rebound since November 13, 1902,	
Total number of volumes rebound,	148

CIRCULATION OF BOOKS.

Circulation of travelling libraries returned for the period, November 13, 1902 to date,	29,963
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No report from five stations. Many others imperfectly kept, not showing real use made of the books.

TRAVELLING LIBRARY STATIONS.

Number of applications received prior to November 13, 1902,	56
Number of applications received since November 13, 1902,	98
	154
General libraries,	125
Libraries on special subjects,	20
Grange libraries,	9

(An average of twenty-five inquires per week, come in from Granges alone.)

BY COUNTIES.

Allegheny—2.	Millersburg,
Fetterman,	Penbrook,
Glenshaw.	Wiconisco,
Beaver—1.	Williamstown.
Rochester.	Delaware—5.
Berks—6.	Essington,
Bernville,	Glenolden,
Centreport,	Leiperville,
Fleetwood,	Media,
Spangsville,	Norwood.
Topton,	Franklin—4.
Wernersville.	Dry Run,
Bradford—4.	Fayetteville,
Alba,	Mont Alto Grange,
Monroetown,	Roxbury.
Neath,	Huntingdon—8.
Spring Hill.	Cassville,
Bucks—6.	Entriken,
Ivyland,	Huntingdon,
Morrisville,	James Creek,
Penns Park,	Mapleton Depot,
Quakertown,	Orbisonia,
Richboro,	Shy Beaver,
Richland Centre.	Warrior's Mark.
Butler—6.	Lackawanna—6.
Portersville,	Clark's Summit,
Prospect,	Dalton,
Liberty,	Glenburn,
Chicora,	Moosic,
Carbon Black,	Old Forge,
Elora.	Waverly.
Centre—1.	Lancaster—5.
Benore.	Coleraine,
Chester—4.	Ephrata,
Coventryville,	Lititz,
Landenburg,	Little Britain,
Malvern,	Marietta.
Slonaker.	Lehigh—1.
Clarion—1.	Macungie.
Foxburg.	Luzerne—11.
Clinton—1.	Ashley,
Renovo.	Beach Haven,
Cumberland—5.	Cambria,
Boiling Springs,	Forty Fort,
Mechanicsburg,	Meeker,
Newburg,	Nanticoke,
Shippensburg,	Parsons,
Shiremanstown.	Pittston,
Dauphin—7.	Plymouth,
Derry Church,	Shickshinny,
Highspire,	West Nanticoke.
Linglestown,	

Lycoming—2.	Gibson,
Hughesville,	Hopbottom,
Muncy.	New Milford,
Mercer—1.	Silver Lake,
West Middlesex.	Springville,
Mifflin—1.	Thompson.
Honey Creek.	Tioga—2.
Montgomery—5.	Academy Corners,
Abington,	Stonyfork.
Ambler,	Wayne—6.
Ashbourne,	Milanville,
Jenkintown,	Damascus,
Willow Grove.	Seelyville,
Northampton—2.	Seelyville Grange,
Hellertown,	Pleasant Mount,
West Easton.	Starrucca.
Northumberland—1.	Washington—1.
Trevorton.	Venetia.
Perry—3.	Wyoming—4.
Ickesburg,	Mehoopany,
Marysville,	Noxen,
Newport.	Ricketts,
Pike—1.	Squaretop.
Milford.	Warren—1.
Schuylkill—2.	Youngsville.
Ashland,	Union—1.
Tamaqua.	Vicksburg.
Snyder—1.	York—6.
Selinsgrove.	Bridgeton,
Susquehanna—11.	Cross Roads,
Brooklyn,	Dallastown,
Dundaff,	Gatcheville,
Elk Lake,	Red Lion,
Franklin Forks,	Windsor township (Red Lion P. O.).

TRAVELLING LIBRARIES ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS.
(SENT SINCE SEPTEMBER, 1903.)

Name of Place.	Subject.
Ardmore,	Famous Women.
Ashland,	America.
Bradford,	Germany.
Philipsburg (Washington Co.),	Children's books.
Columbia,	American literature.
Honesdale,	French and Italian literature.
Jenkintown,	Nature books.
Media,	Russia.
Mont Alto (White Pine Sanitorium), ...	General.
Mount Pleasant,	England.
New Brighton,	The Last Half Century.
Newtown,	Germany.
Phoenixville,	Pennsylvania.
Pittsburgh (Columbian Council School),	Sociology, Pedagogy, Ethics.
Reading,	John Milton.
State College,	Italian literature.
Titusville,	Shakespeare.
Towanda,	Russia.
Tyrone,	France.
Youngsville (High School),	United States History and literature.

TREASURER'S REPORT FROM NOVEMBER 13, 1902, TO FEBRUARY 4, 1904.

RECEIPTS.

1902-04. By balance in hand of Treasurer,	\$52 11
By Auditor General (maintenance, five quarters),	4,500 00
By Auditor General (contingent, six quarters),	562 50
By cash received from borrowers of Travelling Libraries,	466 83
By interest allowed by bankers,	7 68
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	\$5,589 12
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DISBURSEMENTS.

1902-04. To books,	\$1,138 58
To Travelling Library cases,	709 50
To stationery, buff cards, etc.,	20 26
To insurance on books,	15 00
To expressage, postage, etc.,	107 95
To expenses of travelling, hotels, etc.,	425 28
To sums disbursed by assistants at Harrisburg,	448 18
To amount in bank on petty cash account, ...	18 65
To salaries, etc., stenographer and assistants,	2,025 03
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	\$4,908 43
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Total receipts,	\$5,589 12
Total disbursements,	4,908 43
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Balance in hands of Treasurer,	\$680 69
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